



2026 Men's World Cup

What Is the Men's World Cup?

The Men's World Cup is a football tournament for male football teams around the world that takes place every 4 years. The first official Men's World Cup was held in 1930 in Uruguay. The tournament has only been cancelled twice, which was due to the Second World War. Different countries take turns hosting the Men's World Cup. The last tournament was held in Qatar in 2022 and was won by Argentina.

This year's tournament will be held in Canada, Mexico and the United States. It will take place between 11th June and 19th July. It is the first time that the Men's World Cup has been hosted by three different countries.

What Awards Are Given?

At the end of the tournament, the winning team is presented with the gold Men's World Cup trophy for official celebrations. Due to its high value, they then receive a gold-plated copy of the trophy to take away. Medals are awarded to the top three teams. Players, coaches and managers all get medals.

Additionally, there are other awards given to certain players. The Golden Ball is awarded to the best player, the Golden Glove is presented to the top-performing goalkeeper and the Golden Boot is awarded to the highest goalscorer. The Best Young Player is awarded to someone who is 21 years of age or younger.



How Is the Men's World Cup Organised?

There are 48 national teams in the 2026 Men's World Cup and a total of 104 matches will be played in 16 different football stadiums. This is more than ever before. The teams will be split into 12 groups of four teams.

Following the group stage matches, the top two teams from each group will go through to the knockout stage. They will be joined there by the eight best third-placed teams. This consists of a round of 32 teams, quarter-finals, semi-finals and a final.





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What Happened to the Original World Cup Trophy?

The original Men's World Cup trophy has been stolen twice! The first time was in London in 1966 when the trophy was taken from a display in Westminster Central Hall. A week later, a dog called Pickles found it wrapped in newspaper under a hedge.

In 1970, the Brazilian team was given the original trophy to keep because they had won the tournament for the third time. A new trophy was made, which is still used in tournaments today. The original trophy was placed on display in Rio de Janeiro but it was stolen in 1983 and has never been found.



2026 Men's World Cup Questions

1. Which of these countries is **not** hosting the 2026 Men's World Cup?

- Argentina
- Canada
- Mexico
- United States

2. Draw **four** lines and match each award to its description.

Best Young Player ●

The Golden Ball ●

The Golden Boot ●

The Golden Glove ●

● Awarded to the highest goalscorer.

● Presented to the top-performing goalkeeper.

● Awarded to someone who is 21 years of age or younger.

● Awarded to the best player.

3. Find and copy a word that means the same as 'arranged'.

4. Underline one word in the quotation below that suggests that not every player is given an award.

Additionally, there are other awards given to certain players.

5. Why do you think that someone left the original Men's World Cup trophy under a hedge after it was stolen in 1966?

6. Do you think this event will still take place 100 years from now? Why?

7. Look at the paragraph that begins **Additionally, there are other awards given to certain players.**

Write a suitable sub-heading to summarise this paragraph.

8. Look at the paragraphs under the sub-heading **What Happened to the Original World Cup Trophy?** In what way are these paragraphs different from the rest of the text?

Dig Deeper

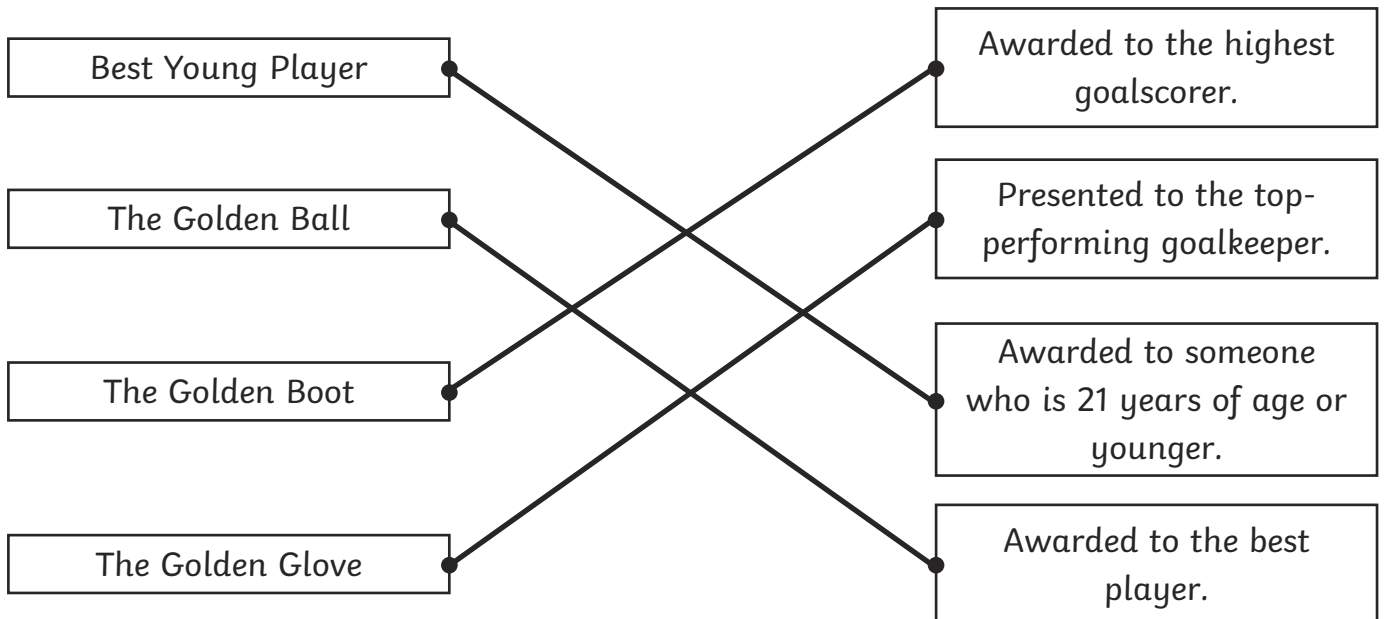
Discuss with a partner: Where could you use an idea or fact you have found out today in your everyday life?

2026 Men's World Cup Answers

1. Which of these countries is **not** hosting the 2026 Men's World Cup?

- Argentina**
- Canada
- Mexico
- United States

2. Draw **four** lines and match each award to its description.



3. Find and copy a word that means the same as 'arranged'.

organised

4. Underline one word in the quotation below that suggests that not every player is given an award.

Additionally, there are other awards given to certain players.

Award 1 mark for: certain

5. Why do you think that someone left the original Men's World Cup trophy under a hedge after it was stolen in 1966?

Learners' own responses, such as: I think that someone left the original Men's World Cup trophy under a hedge after it was stolen in 1966 because they realised that they could be in a lot of trouble if they were caught with it.

6. Do you think this event will still take place 100 years from now? Why?
Learners' own responses, such as: I predict that the Men's World Cup will still take place in 100 years because football is a very popular sport that lots of people enjoy. Also, the event has lasted nearly 100 years already.
7. Look at the paragraph that begins **Additionally, there are other awards given to certain players.**
Write a suitable sub-heading to summarise this paragraph.
Accept any response that correctly summarises the paragraph, such as: 'Other Awards' or 'Player Awards'.
8. Look at the paragraphs under the sub-heading **What Happened to the Original World Cup Trophy?** In what way are these paragraphs different from the rest of the text?
Learners' own responses, such as: The paragraphs under the heading 'What Happened to the Original World Cup Trophy?' describe interesting stories from the history of the Men's World Cup while the rest of the text focuses mainly on facts about the 2026 Men's World Cup.